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ORIGIN, STRUCTURE, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ORIGINS AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES BEFORE MARCH 26, 1943

From the Creation of the Department Until May 1933

The work of the United States Department of Agriculture had its small beginnings in the Patent Office, then in the Department of State, during the 1830's. On July 4, 1836, Henry L. Ellsworth became Commissioner of Patents. He soon began, without special authorization or appropriation, to distribute plants and seeds of value to farmers and to plead for the publication of agricultural statistics. In 1839, Congress granted the Patent Office the right to expend $1,000 out of its current income for agricultural purposes, the first such authorization for the expenditure of Federal funds.

The agricultural work of the Patent Office expanded rapidly, as did appropriations to carry it on, and, soon after the Department of the Interior was created in 1849, and the Patent Office became part of it, the services of a "scientific agriculturist" were required. Ultimately an agricultural division was established in the Patent Office and there was constant public agitation for a Federal Department of Agriculture. In 1862, an agency to serve agriculture was created by Act of Congress. Though called a department, it had essentially bureau status and Isaac Newton, then in charge of agricultural affairs in the Patent Office, became first Commissioner of Agriculture. He did not sit in the Cabinet.

The bill creating the Department of Agriculture was signed May 15, 1862, by President Lincoln. On May 20, 1862, Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act, which made provision for giving freehold farms of 160 acres each from the public domain to citizens who would make homes on them and till them for 5 years. On July 2 of the same year Lincoln signed the Land-Grant College Act which endowed the colleges with 11,000,000 acres of public land, a domain twice the area of Vermont, the State represented in the Senate by Justin Smith Morrill who fathered this legislation.

The next administrative step raised the head of the agricultural agency to Cabinet rank. This also was done as the result of widespread public agitation. The bill providing authority passed the 50th Congress and became law February 9, 1889. Thereafter the Department gradually assumed its present state by a process of orderly evolution in response to many acts of Congress. This has involved many administrative and organizational changes, but each was functional in its day, and each marked progress in the satisfaction of public needs.

It early became necessary to subdivide the work of the Department into sections and divisions. But, on May 29, 1884, an act was approved establishing a Bureau of Animal Industry to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among domestic animals and live poultry. Thus the first bureau was established in the Department. The Bureau of Animal Industry has now preserved its essential identity longer than any other line or program agency of the Department.

Approval of the Hatch Agricultural Experiment Stations Act of March 2, 1887, authorized the establishment, under the direction of the land-grant colleges, of stations in each State to conduct agricultural experimentation. The Office of Experiment Stations was set up, in 1888, as a staff agency to administer the Federal grants involved in this and subsequent supplementary legislation, including the evaluation and approval of research projects, proposals for new projects or project revisions, annual research programs, and budget allotments of the various stations, and the coordination of these researches with similar investigations by the Federal Department.

An Act of Congress approved October 1, 1890 provided for the transfer of the Weather Bureau, which had been conducted by the Army Signal Corps since February 4, 1870, to the Department of Agriculture, on July 1, 1891. In 1940, however, the Weather Bureau was transferred to the Department of Commerce.

In 1876, Congress provided for the appointment of a special agent in the Department of Agriculture to study forest conditions in the U. S. A Division of Forestry was established in 1881. In 1891, Congress authorized the President to set aside national forest reserves from the public domain and the act of February 1, 1905 placed the National Forests in the custody of the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Forestry was created in 1901; it became the Forest Service on March 3, 1905.

In 1901, also, the various lines of work then being carried on in the field of plant investigation were combined in a research agency called the Bureau of Plant Industry. At the same time the Divisions of Chemistry and of Soils became bureaus. The Bureaus of Chemistry and of Soils were merged into the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils in July 1927. At the same time the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration was established to enforce the food and drug and five related regulatory acts. It later became the Food and Drug Administration, and was transferred to the Federal Security Agency, June 30, 1940.

The entomological work of the Federal Government began June 14, 1854 with the appointment of an entomologist in the Patent Office. This work was transferred to the Department of Agriculture in 1862, and was carried on under divisional status until it became the Bureau of Entomology, July 1, 1904. A Federal Horticultural Board was established August 21, 1912, and continued to function until July 1, 1928, when the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration was set up. The latter was succeeded by the Bureau of Plant Quarantine July 1, 1932. On July 1, 1934, the entomological and plant quarantine activities of the Department, together with control work on plant diseases, were consolidated to form the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. On September 1, 1934, the chemical work on insecticides and fungicides was transferred to this bureau from the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

The Bureau of Biological Survey was established July 1, 1905, and in 1939, was transferred to the Department of the Interior where it became part of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau of Public Roads was created in 1918 from the Office of Public Roads Inquiries, and, in 1939, was transferred to the former Federal Works Agency to become the Public Roads Administration. On July 1, 1949, Public Roads Administration was transferred to the new General Services Administration and renamed the Bureau of Public Roads, but Reorganization Plan No. 7 transferred it to the Department of Commerce as of August 20, 1949.

The Bureau of Home Economics was established in 1923 and became the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in February 1943. In 1924 a Bureau of Dairying was split off the Bureau of Animal Industry; it became the Bureau of Dairy Industry in 1926. The Bureau of Agricultural Engineering was organized from the Agricultural Engineering Division, Bureau of Public Roads, and existed independently from 1931 until October 1938, when it was merged with other work to form the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering. In February 1943, agricultural engineering research was placed in the Bureau of Plant Industry, which then became the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. The Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering then became the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. The four Regional Research Laboratories, for which provision was made in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, became part of the basic structure of this bureau.

Work in agricultural economics--the collection of statistics was one of the Department's earliest activities--began gradually but rapidly increased in importance. The Division of Statistics was given bureau status in 1903, was designated the Bureau of Statistics and Crop Estimates in 1913, and was changed to the Bureau of Crop Estimates in 1914. Meanwhile, the Office of Markets, established in 1913, was combined with the Rural Organization Service, to form the Office of Markets and Rural Organization which became in 1917, the Bureau of Markets. These two organizations, the Bureau of Crop Estimates and the Bureau of Markets, were consolidated in 1921, and a year later the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics was merged with them to form the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which on July 1, 1939, became a Departmental staff agency engaged in economic and social research and statistical compilation and analysis.

The passage of a number of regulatory acts increased the work of the Department, as these laws were referred to it for enforcement. Notable among these were: The Adulterated and Renovated Butter Act of May 9, 1902; the Animal Quarantine Act of March 3, 1905; the Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act of June 30, 1906; the Inspection of Dairy Products for Exports Act of May 23, 1908; the Insecticides Act of April 26, 1910; the Weeks Act for the conservation of forests and water supplies of March 1, 1911; the Plant Quarantine Act of August 20, 1912; and the Federal Seed Act of August 24, 1912.

On May 8, 1914, the Agricultural Extension Act was passed. It authorized educational and demonstration work in the field of agriculture and home economics. The work was carried on largely by the land-grant colleges in cooperation with the USDA. In 1923, the Extension Service, which had hitherto formed part of the States Relations Service (established in 1915 and abolished in 1923) became an independent unit.

On July 17, 1916, the Federal Farm Loan Act was approved to provide for the establishment of the 12 Federal land banks, which were empowered to make long-term loans on farm-land first mortgages through cooperative national farm loan associations, and to issue farm loan bonds secured thereby. This and later legislation led ultimately to the creation of the Farm Credit Administration in 1933, which was a combination of various existing agricultural credit agencies.

Other regulatory laws assigned to the Department for enforcement were the Grain Standards, the United States Cotton Futures, and the Warehouse Acts, August 11, 1916, and the Packers and Stockyards Act, August 15, 1921. The last was initially enforced by the Packers and Stockyards Administration, which was abolished as a separate unit in 1929. The act was then enforced by the Bureau of Animal Industry until 1939, when enforcement went to Agricultural Marketing Service. Its administration is now assigned to the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.

Regulation of futures trading by the Department goes back to the Grain Futures Act of 1922, the name of which was changed to Commodity Exchange Act, in 1936, when the earlier law was amended and strengthened, and other commodities in addition to grains were brought under regulation. The Cooperative Marketing Act of July 2, 1926, directed the Secretary of Agriculture to create an agency to conduct research on cooperative associations and to disseminate information on the subject.

The "Action" Agencies, May 1933 to December 13, 1941

While the Agricultural Marketing Act was approved June 15, 1929, followed by the establishment of the Farm Board, and the Foreign Agricultural Service Act became law June 5, 1930, it was the Agricultural Adjustment Act of May 12, 1933, which ushered in the new legislation that resulted in the setting up of the so-called "action agencies" of the Department. This act was designed to establish and maintain such balance between the production and consumption of agricultural commodities, and such marketing conditions therefore, as would reestablish prices to farmers at a level that would give farm products the purchasing power they had in specified earlier base periods. The base period for most commodities was 1909 to 1914.

Some of the additional legislative acts authorizing other parts of this action program were as follows: The Emergency Farm Mortgage Act and the Farm Credit Act of 1933; the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation Act and the Jones-Costigan Sugar Act of 1934; the surplus diversion programs, dependent on the availability of Section 32 funds provided in the 1935 amendments to AAA legislation; the Soil Conservation Act of 1935; the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, the Rural Electrification Act, and the Flood Control Act of 1936; the Agricultural Marketing Agreement legislation, the act placing the functions of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation in the Department, the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, the Norris-Doxey farm forestry legislation, the Pope-Jones water-facilities legislation, and the Sugar Act of 1937; and the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1938.

In order to carry out the intent of Congress as expressed in this and other legislation, many new agencies appeared, such as: The Agricultural Adjustment Administration, May 1933; the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, October 4, 1933; the Soil Conservation Service, April 27, 1935, (the Soil Erosion Service, transferred from the Department of the Interior, formed the nucleus of the new bureau); the Farm Security Administration as the Resettlement Administration, April 30, 1935; the Agricultural Marketing Service, July 7, 1939; and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, February 16, 1938. The Commodity Exchange Administration, superseding the Grain Futures Administration, was established July 1, 1936; it went into the Agricultural Marketing Administration December 13, 1941, and thence into the Food Distribution Administration, War Food Administration, December 5, 1942.

Some of these agencies started out as independent establishments and later came into the Department where they have since undergone changes in name and structure. The Farm Credit Administration was created in 1933, but became part of the Department on July 1, 1939. The Rural Electrification Administration was set up as an independent agency on May 11, 1935, and came to the Department July 1, 1939. The Commodity Credit Corporation was established October 17, 1933, and was placed in the Department July 1, 1939. The Surplus Marketing Administration was established in 1940 by combining the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of Agricultural Adjustment Administration with the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. The Resettlement Administration was an independent agency until it became part of the Department, January 1, 1937.

The Four Regional Research Laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, though not "action" agencies, were established in response to authorization in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of February 16, 1938.

An Office for Agricultural Defense (later War) Relations was set up in the Department on May 5, 1941, in response to letters from the President.

From the Reorganization of December 13, 1941, to December 5, 1942

On December 13, 1941, there was announced a major reorganization of the Department to streamline it for the war effort. This was validated by an Executive Order dated February 23, 1942. At this time three large administrations were established as follows:

1. The Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration was organized by merging the activities of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (later Agricultural Adjustment Agency), the Soil Conservation Service, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Sugar Division.

2. The Agricultural Marketing Administration was organized by merging the activities of the Surplus Marketing Administration, the Commodity Exchange Administration, the Agricultural Marketing Service (except the Division of Agricultural Statistics, which returned to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics), and the Consumers' Counsel Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. (Authority for the last was provided by Secretary's Memorandum 988, February 13, 1942.)

3. The Agricultural Research Administration was organized by grouping the activities of seven old-line scientific bureaus and agencies (named earlier) concerned with research and regulatory work, four Regional Research Laboratories, and nine Bankhead-Jones Laboratories. The Beltsville (now Agricultural) Research Center was placed under the supervision of the Agricultural Research Administrator.

The Commodity Credit Corporation, Extension Service, Farm Security Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Forest Service, and Rural Electrification Administration remained unchanged in status.

On June 5, 1942 a Food Requirements Committee of the War Production Board was established (1) to determine the requirements for food and the amount by which the domestic production and importation thereof, and of agricultural materials from which foods are derived, should be increased or decreased to meet requirements and (2) to make recommendations to the Requirements Committee of WPB as to requirements for supplies or equipment needed for the production of such foods and materials. The Secretary of Agriculture became chairman of the Food Requirements Committee which worked in close coordination with other agencies dealing with war production.

On June 9, 1942, the White House announced the appointment of a Combined Food Board, composed of the Secretary of Agriculture and the head of the British Food Mission. It was to effect planned and expeditious utilization of the food resources of the United Nations.

War Food Program from December 5, 1943, Until the War Food Administration was Organized

Fundamental reorganization of the Department took place on December 10, 1942, as a result of the Executive Order dated December 5, which delegated to the Secretary of Agriculture authority to assume charge of the Nation's war-time food program, and established the Food Production and the Food Distribution Administrations. At that time the Food Production Administration and the Food Distribution Administration were organized. These, with the Agricultural Research Administration, the Commodity Credit Corporation, Extension Service, the Forest Service, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the staff agencies, then constituted the Department.

The following agencies were originally consolidated into the Food Production Administration: The Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration (except the Sugar Agency); the Farm Credit Administration; the Farm Security Administration; that part of the Division of Farm Management and Costs of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics concerned primarily with planning current production; and that part of the Office for Agricultural War Relations concerned primarily with food production.

Agencies consolidated into the Food Distribution Administration were: The Agricultural Marketing Administration; the Sugar Agency of the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration; that part of the Bureau of Animal Industry, of the Agricultural Research Administration, concerned primarily with regulatory activities (meat inspection); and that part of the Office for Agricultural War Relations concerned primarily with food distribution. The last-named office altogether disappeared soon thereafter.

Membership of the Agricultural War Board was reduced from 11 to 8 administrative and staff officers, and it was named the Department War Board. The 8 members were: The Director of Food Production, the Director of Food Distribution, the Agricultural Research Administrator, the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Director of the Extension Service, the Chief of the Forest Service, the Rural Electrification Administrator, and the Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Involved also in the December 1942 reorganization was a transfer of personnel from the War Production Board and its Office of Civilian Supply to the Department, as announced January 14, 1943. In brief, the assignments were as follows:

To the Food Production Administration--Personnel of the WPB Fertilizers Units, primarily concerned with allocation of fertilizers containing chemical nitrogen; of the WPB Farm Machinery and Equipment Division, concerned primarily with the farm machinery program; of the Food Technology Unit of the OCS, dealing with plans, programs, and requirements for farm machinery, fertilizers, and insecticides; of the Machinery Unit of OCS, concerned mainly with plans, programs, and requirements for farm machinery; and of the Containers Section of the OCS, concerned with plans, programs, and requirements for farm food containers.

To the Food Distribution Administration--Personnel of the WPB Food Division; of the WPB Fats and Oils Section; of the WPB Food Processing Machinery Section, concerned with the food-processing machinery program; of the Food Section of OCS, other than that assigned to the Food Production Administration; of the Machinery Unit of OCS, concerned with food-processing machinery; of the Fats and Oils Unit of OCS, concerned with edible fats and oils; of the Containers' Section of OCS, concerned with nonfarm-food containers; and of the Food Section of the Procurement Policy Division.

The President's Executive Order of December 5, 1942, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to:

Determine the direct and indirect military, other governmental, civilian, and foreign requirements for human food and animal feed and for food used industrially; formulate and implement a program to supply food adequate to meet the requirements, allocating the Nation's farm-production resources as needed; assign priorities and allocate food for all uses above-mentioned; insure the efficient and proper distribution of the available food supply; make recommendations to the Chairman of the War Production Board covering the quantities and types of nonfood materials, supplies, and equipment required to carry out the program; jointly determine with the WPB Chairman the division to be made whenever the available supply of any food proved insufficient to meet requirements; determine the need and amount of food available for civilian rationing, exercising priorities and allocation powers through the Office of Price Administration; collaborate as necessary with other agencies concerned with the foreign aspects of the food program; in the event of a shortage of domestic transportation service, make recommendations to the Office of Defense Transportation, after consultation with the WPB; have full responsibility for agricultural manpower. These powers were later delegated to the War Food Administrator.

On December 19, 1942, the Secretary appointed a committee composed of representatives of the War, Navy, and Interior Departments, the Office of Lend-Lease Administration, the Board of Economic Warfare, the War Production Board, and the Food Production and the Food Distribution Directors to advise and consult with him in carrying out the provisions of the Executive Order. A State Department representative, the Agricultural Research Administrator, and the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation were subsequently appointed to serve on the committee. The Administrator of Food Production and Distribution (later War Food Administrator was also a member. The Foods Requirements Committee of the War Production Board, of which the Secretary was chairman, and which was established June 5, 1942, was then abolished.

On January 22, 1943, a Committee on Foreign Purchase and Importation was established, composed of the Director of Food Production, the Director of Food Distribution, the Administrator of Agricultural Research, the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, and heads of other agencies later designated. The President or Acting President of the Commodity Credit Corporation served as Chairman. There was also established a Committee on Domestic Transportation, composed of the Director of Food Production, the Director of Food Distribution, the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Chief of the Forest Service, and the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary might later designate. The Director or Acting Director of the Food Distribution Administration served as Chairman.

On February 7, 1943, cooperative arrangements were announced whereby the basic food research required by the Army Quartermaster Corps and the Navy Bureau of Supplies and Accounts was to be conducted by the Agricultural Research Administration. On February 9, the appointment was announced of an interagency Food Procurement Committee composed of representatives of the principal Government agencies buying food for war purposes.

On March 1, 1943, the Secretary announced the formation in USDA of an agricultural Labor Administration to be responsible for the development and direction of all phases of the Department's farm labor programs. On March 24, 1943, the Secretary announced the transfer to the Food Distribution Administration of the Nutrition Division, Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services. The next step was the organization of the War Food Administration.

THE WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION, MARCH 26, 1943--JUNE 30, 1945

From March 26, 1943 until July 1, 1945, the program agencies of the Department of Agriculture were grouped into two administrative units, each headed by an official appointed by and directly responsible to the President. The agencies in the War Food Administration were responsible to the War Food Administrator. The Agricultural Research Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and Forest Service were responsible to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The over-all service and staff agencies served both the War Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture in the same manner. These agencies were the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Office of Budget and Finance, the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, the Office of Information, the Library, the Office of Personnel, the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of Plant and Operations, and the Land Use Coordinator.

The Administrative Council then served as a central point for consideration of organization, managerial, and other administrative matters of an over-all character. An Assistant to the Secretary was Chairman, and an Assistant to the War Food Administrator, Vice Chairman. The other members were the Directors of Finance, Personnel, and Information; the Solicitor; the Chief of the Office of Plant and Operations; and the Land Use Coordinator. The Under Secretary of Agriculture was also First Assistant War Food Administrator.

By Executive Order 9322, March 26, 1943, the President consolidated into one unit the Food Production Administration (except the Farm Credit Administration), the Food Distribution Administration, the Commodity Credit Corporation, and the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. The resulting agency was then named the Food Production and Distribution Administration, but Executive Order 9334 issued April 19, 1943, changed the designation to War Food Administration. By Executive Order 9280, December 5, 1942, authority with respect to the Nation's wartime food program had been delegated to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Order of March 26, 1943, transferred to the War Food Administrator all powers, functions, and duties conferred upon the Secretary by the earlier Order, including those relating to labor and manpower.

The primary responsibility of the War Food Administration was to assure an adequate supply and efficient distribution of food to meet war and essential civilian needs. Executive Order 9334 so defined the respective duties and functions of the Secretary of Agriculture and the War Food Administrator that, in order to carry out its purposes, each had authority to exercise any and all powers vested in the other by statute, or otherwise, to the extent necessary to enable them to perform their respective duties and functions.

The Combined Food Board was reconstituted on April 28, 1943, pursuant to Executive Order 9334, and Administrator's Memorandum 30 of the day before, with the War Food Administrator as U. S. member, the Secretary as Chairman, and a Canadian in addition to the British member. Both the Administrator and the Secretary remained members of the War Production Board and the former was already a member of the War Mobilization Committee. At the same time the Food Advisory and the Interagency Allocations Committees were abolished, their functions being combined and transferred to a WFA Food Requirements and Allocations Committee. This committee consisted of members representing the War Department, Navy Department, Foreign Economic Administration, War Shipping Administration, and WFA. The committee received all estimates of food requirements and recommended all food allocations.

On April 30, 1943, WFA announced an organization to administer the farm labor program. The Director of the Extension Service became responsible for mobilizing farm labor for use within each State and for the placing of workers on farms to meet local labor needs. Responsibility for the supply and distribution of foreign labor, and of domestic labor moved from one State to another, was given to the Director of Interstate and Foreign Labor. Agencies cooperating with WFA on this program were the U. S. Employment Service, the Office of Education, the Office of Civilian Defense, the Selective Service System, and the War Manpower Commission.

Establishment of the War Meat Board was announced jointly by WFA and the Office of Price Administration, May 15, 1943, to facilitate the handling of the Nation's meat supply. It's Chairman was an authorized representative of the former. The other members were a representative of the Armed Forces, a WFA representative responsible for other governmental meat purchases, representatives from the Food Rationing Division and the Price Division of OPA, and members selected from the meat industry to represent its various trade divisions.

On May 10, 1943, an Office of Materials and Facilities was set up in WFA. On May 12, 1943, establishment of Food Industry Advisory Committees was authorized, to furnish recommendations and advice in connection with the formulation and execution of food programs of WFA. On May 27, 1943, the War Board Services Branch of the Food Production Administration was transferred to the Office of the War Food Administrator. All communications with the State War Boards thereafter went out over the signature of the Administrator.

A Director of Transportation was appointed May 26, 1943. The Office of Transportation became a staff agency of WFA December 1, 1943. The Beverages and Tobacco Division of the War Production Board, created in February 1942, was transferred to WFA on June 3, 1943. WFA established an Office of Labor on June 21, 1943. On August 25, 1943, WFA announced the establishment, effective September 1, of a National War Board. An Office of War Board Services was set up August 26, but was discontinued December 30, 1943.

Functions of the WFA and the Commodity Credit Corporation with respect to the procurement and development of food, food machinery, and other food facilities in foreign countries were transferred to the Foreign Economic Administration by Executive Order 9385, October 6, 1943.

The Price Support Committee was established on November 5, 1943, to prepare recommendations covering commodities to which WFA would give price support and the level of such support prices during the crop year 1944-45.

Administrator's Memorandum 27, Supplement 4, January 21, 1944, changed the names of the Food Production Administration and the Food Distribution Administration to Office of Production and Office of Distribution, respectively. It redefined the functions of these offices and of the Commodity Credit Corporation and established an Office of Price to deal with problems relating to the approval of maximum prices and price supports for agricultural commodities. It made Soil Conservation Service, Farm Security Administration, and Agricultural Adjustment Agency independent agencies within WFA.

The Interagency Importation Committee was established April 4, 1944, to make recommendations about shipping quotas and priorities and other problems relating to the foreign procurement of food for human or animal use. The committee comprised the Directors of Distribution, Transportation, Production, and Foreign Agricultural Relations, and the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, or their designees.

Administrator's Memorandum 27, Supplement 10, October 26, 1944, established a new WFA staff unit called the Office of Surplus Property and Reconversion and Supplement 11 of the same, issued November 10, 1944, designated a Director of and created an Office of Water Utilization in WFA to work closely with the Land Use Coordinator.

Administrator's Memorandum 27, Revision 1, December 13, 1944, as amended, issued January 5, 1945, reorganized WFA. The Offices of Production and Distribution were abolished. Initially, Offices of Marketing Services, Basic Commodities, and Supply were created, but finally only the first remained an independent WFA agency, and the last two were placed in the Commodity Credit Corporation under Vice Presidents thereof who were directly responsible to the War Food Administrator in carrying out their program activities. They also became Directors of Basic Commodities and of Supply, respectively.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation became an independent WFA agency and ceased reporting administratively to the Director of Production, as had been the case. That part of the Office of Marketing Services concerned with school-lunch and direct-distribution programs was transferred to CCC and placed under the Vice President designated Director of Supply.

Functions, funds, personnel, and property of the Office of Production were transferred to Agricultural Adjustment Agency, except those relating to soil conservation and land-use activities which went to Soil Conservation Service. Administrator's Memorandum 27, Revision 1, Amendment 6, March 30, 1945, transferred to SCS all functions of the Farm Security Administration relating to the water conservation and utilization programs of WFA, as authorized by the Case-Wheeler Act of August 11, 1939, as amended, and the item entitled "Water Conservation and Utility Projects" in the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1940, as supplemented and continued by subsequent legislation, together with the personnel, funds, and property primarily concerned with the functions transferred.

The Office of Investigatory Services was established March 23, 1945, by Administrator's Memorandum 27, Revision 1, Supplement 4. The Office of Requirements and Allocations was established April 12, 1945, in response to the Administrator's Memorandum 27, Revision 1, Amendment 7, and the Office of Home Food Supply by Supplement 5, thereto, dated June 5, 1945.

FROM CONSOLIDATION OF WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION WITH THE USDA TO DATE

On June 29, 1945, the President, by Executive Order 9577, abolished the War Food Administration, as of the close of business June 30, and transferred its functions to the Department of Agriculture. This terminated Executive Order 9334 of April 19, 1943. Records, property, personnel, funds, and agencies of WFA were thus placed under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who announced this consolidation in Secretary's Memorandum 1106, July 3, 1945. Therein the Secretary also announced the appointment of a Committee on Reorganization, to confer with all agency heads, and so to integrate WFA and USDA as to avoid overlapping, duplication of functions, and inefficiency in service to the public.

Secretary's Memorandum 681, Supplement 2, July 11, 1945, changed the name of the Beltsville Research Center to Agricultural Research Center.

Secretary's Memorandum 1118, August 18, 1945, announced the establishment of a Production and Marketing Administration which was, in effect, a consolidation of the following agencies: Office of Basic Commodities, Office of Supply, Office of the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Offices of the Manager and of the Secretary of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Office of Marketing Services, Agricultural Adjustment Agency, Office of Requirements and Allocations, Office of Price, Office of Transportation, Office of Materials and Facilities, Office of Labor, Office of Home Food Supply, Office of Investigatory Services, and the then liquidating Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

On August 21, 1945, Secretary's Memorandum 1120 abolished the position of Land Use Coordinator and the Office of Water Utilization. Functions, property, personnel, and responsibilities were assigned to the Assistant Secretary who was charged with the coordination and general supervision of Department policies and activities relating to land and water resources. Secretary's Memorandum 1099, Revision 2, September 18, 1945, announced the composition of the Department Committee on Foreign Relations, under the chairmanship of the Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

PMA Administrator's Memorandum 2, Supplement 6, Amendment 1, September 29, 1945, rescinded Section VIII of Administrator's Memorandum 2, Supplement 6, dated September 12 previously, which had assigned the functions, funds, personnel, and property of the former Office of the Manager and Secretary of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to branches in PMA. Secretary's Memorandum 1118, Supplement 1, October 8, 1945, established the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation as a bureau within PMA.

Executive Order 9630, September 27, 1945, abolished the Foreign Economic Administration, transferring to the Department of Agriculture the functions of the Office of Foreign Food Programs and all FEA functions concerned with food. Secretary's Memorandum 1130, October 19, 1945, announced the temporary establishment in PMA of a Foreign Food Programs Branch to which functions and employees transferred from FEA were assigned until their transfer to other units of PMA or to RFC could be effected.

Secretary's Memorandum 1132, October 26, 1945, established State and County USDA Councils. Secretary's Memorandum 1135, November 29, 1945, abolished the Office of Surplus Property and Reconversion and transferred its staff and part of its functions to the direction of the Assistant Secretary. Functions under the Surplus Property, Contract Settlement, and War Mobilization and Reconversion Acts of 1944 (including only those relating to food and agricultural commodities under the last named) were transferred to PMA.

Secretary's Memorandum 1139, December 12, 1945, redefined the functions and organization of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, making it more than ever responsible for the collection and dissemination of agricultural statistics, economic research, and the dissemination of the results thereof; and transferred leadership in general agricultural program planning to the Office of the Secretary, and responsibility for fostering groups for public study and discussion of broad agricultural problems and policies to Extension Service. The memorandum also established a Situation and Outlook Board. The organization and operation of the Situation and Outlook Board was announced January 23, 1946. On the same day Memorandum 1140 established the Policy and Program Committee, named its members, and defined its functions.

Secretary's Memorandum 1118, Supplement 6, December 17, 1945, established a staff Office of Audit in the Production and Marketing Administration, headed by a Chief Auditor. Secretary's Memorandum 1118, Supplement 4, Amendment 1, January 4, 1946 designated an assistant administrator for fiscal and inventory control in Production and Marketing Administration.

Secretary's Memorandum 1144, January 25, 1946, established an Office of Government Representative for Meat Supply to carry out duties and responsibilities vested in the Secretary by Executive Order 9685, January 24, with reference to possession and operation of certain plants, facilities, and property used in the production, processing, transportation, sale, or distribution of livestock, meat, meat products, and byproducts.

The President's 9-point Famine Relief Program was announced February 6, 1946, and the Department immediately took steps to implement it. Review of the Department's food programs was ordered February 15, and revision of 1946 farm-production goals on February 21. Memorandum 1150 established a Department Committee on Home Gardening February 26. The Famine Emergency Committee met in the White House March 1, on call of the President. The Department in rapid succession announced various measures to conserve grain and meet the famine emergency. On March 8, 1946, State directors of Production and Marketing Administration and chairmen of the county agricultural conservation committees were designated State and county emergency food-program managers to help speed the supply of food for the emergency famine relief program. The Famine Emergency Committee, after an all-day session at the Department announced on March 11 its specific recommendations for the conservation of wheat, wheat products, and food fats and oils.

Secretary's Memorandum 1118, Supplement 7, March 5, 1946, vested responsibility for all warehouse inspection related to storage of Government-held commodities acquired in carrying out commodity programs in the Marketing Facilities Branch of Production and Marketing Administration, effective May 1.

Secretary's Memorandum 1156, March 19, 1946, established an Office of Emergency Food Program in the Office of the Secretary to coordinate and give general direction to all phases of the program, and to assist the Secretary in providing food for relief shipment abroad. On April 10, the Secretary issued a call for world aid in the food fats and oils crisis. Responsibility for continuance of the Office of Emergency Food Program, to cooperate with the Famine Emergency Committee, was announced in Secretary's Memorandum 1156, Supplement 1, July 8, 1946.

Secretary's Memorandum 1158, April 10, 1946, provided for coordination of relationships between the Department and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Famine Emergency Committee made recommendations for intensification of the food-for-famine program in a letter to the President dated April 9, 1946. On April 19, the Secretary announced a 6-point program to speed up and increase food-grain shipments urgently needed to avert famine abroad. Still other grain conservation and famine relief measures were quickly taken. The Government's grain price policy was announced May 8, the wheat program May 14.

The Combined Food Board voted its own abolition June 20, 1946, and the International Emergency Food Council was established to replace it.

Secretary's Memorandum 1166, June 27, 1946, announced measures for administering the Department's program for water-flow and run-off retardation, and erosion prevention in water-sheds, in the interest of flood control, detailing the responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service.

The Research and Marketing Act, which became law August 14, 1946, provided for extension and expansion of Department research and marketing service programs. A National Advisory Committee--later renamed the agricultural Research Policy Committee--was appointed October 24, and an administrator for the act was designated December 27, 1946. Secretary's Memorandum 1199, July 19, 1947, outlined the functions of the Administrator and appointed a Research and Marketing Advisory Group of which the Administrator was designated Chairman.

The Farmers Home Administration Act became law August 14, 1946, abolishing the Farm Security Administration as such, providing for establishment of the Farmers Home Administration, and giving it various functions and responsibilities, including some formerly in Farm Credit Administration. Secretary's Memorandum 1171, August 19, established the Farmers Home Administration which began to function as such, November 1, 1946, by order of the Secretary.

Secretary's Memorandum 1172, August 21, 1946, transferred--as of October 1, 1946--enforcement of the Meat Inspection Act and the 28-Hour Law back into the Bureau of Animal Industry from the Livestock Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration where it had been placed by Executive Order 9280, December 5, 1942.

An Office of Hearing Examiners, under supervision of a Chief Hearing Examiner, was established in the Office of the Secretary by Memorandum 1180, December 9, 1946.

Secretary's Memorandum 1185, January 21, 1947, established the Commodity Exchange Authority under an Administrator directly responsible to the Secretary, thus removing it from Production and Marketing Administration as of the following February 1.

Secretary's Memorandum 1118, Supplement 10, abolished the following offices and branches of PMA: Special Commodities Branch, Materials and Equipment Branch, Office of Requirements and Allocations, Office of Foreign Programs Coordination, and Office of Price, effective immediately on date of the Memorandum, March 14, 1947. The Office of Transportation Officer was abolished within PMA, as of the close of business March 31, 1947.

Secretary's Memorandum 1187, March 19, 1947, coordinated all research activities of all Department agencies, other than economic research, under the Agricultural Research Administrator.

Secretary's Memorandum 1188, March 19, 1947, realigned the functions of the Production and Marketing Administration, established by Secretary's Memorandum 1118, and created the positions of Assistant Administrator for production, Assistant Administrator for Marketing, and Assistant Administrator for Commodity Credit Corporation.

Secretary's Memorandum 1190, March 31, 1947, announced the transfer to the Department from the Office of Price Administration of sugar rationing, and the establishment within the Department of a Sugar Rationing Administration to carry on functions vested in the Secretary by the Sugar Control Extension Act of 1947; it also carried requisite delegations of authority. All sugar rationing was eliminated at noon July 28, 1947, for lack of funds to continue the program.

The Mexico-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Republic of Mexico was established in March 1947, as provided by 21 U.S.C. 114b et seq.

On June 25, 1947, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act became law to be administered by the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. It replaced the Insecticide Act of 1910, but greatly expanded public protection in this field.

Secretary's Memorandum 1196, June 26, 1947, made the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation a separate organizational entity in the Department, the following July 1.

Certain marketing research functions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics were transferred to Production and Marketing Administration by Secretary's Memorandum 1198, dated July 11, 1947, effective dates to be determined later. The Marketing Research Branch, PMA, was established August 8, 1947, Secretary's Memorandum 1188, Supplement 1.

The Office for Food and Feed Conservation was established January 27, 1948, Secretary's Memorandum 1204. It was abolished for lack of funds on June 30, 1948.

Liquidation of the farm labor camps became mandatory under Public Law 298, 80th Congress, and the Farmers Home Administration Act of 1947, and all Federal Government operations were discontinued as of January 30, 1948.

Secretary's Memorandum 1211, March 25, 1948, designated a chief liaison officer on European recovery. The Remount Service, Department of the Army, was transferred to the Department of Agriculture by Public Law 494, 80th Congress. The organization of the Production and Marketing Administration and the Commodity Credit Corporation was clarified in Secretary's Memorandum 1226, August 30, 1948. Memorandum 1171, Supplement 4, April 15, 1949, abolished the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation and transferred the Disaster Loan Authority to the Farmers Home Administration.

The Housing Act of 1949 was signed by the President on July 15. Title V thereof provided new functions to be carried out by Farmers Home Administration, and Secretary's Memorandum 1238, August 10, assigned still other functions and authorities to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Extension Service, and the Agricultural Research Administration.

Secretary's Memorandum 1237, July 29, 1949, transferred all funds, records, facilities, and personnel of the Office of the Administrator, Research and Marketing Act, to the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, effective July 30, 1949, and authorized and directed him to administer this act. At about this time supervision of USDA's marketing policies and programs, including coordination of the agency marketing activities and their relation to research, education, and production programs, was assigned to the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Secretary's Memorandum 1239, August 10, 1949, transferred the coordination of nutrition services--Federal, State, and other--from the Production and Marketing Administration to the Agricultural Research Administration, pursuant to the provisions of Part V, Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 and Public Law 146, 81st Congress.

Public Law 268, 81st Congress, which expanded the Federal Crop Insurance Program, was signed by the President August 25, 1949.

Secretary's Memorandum 1243, October 11, 1949, assigned responsibility for general administrative matters to the Assistant Secretary. Memorandum 1244, Supplement 1, December 9, 1949, assigned certain new responsibilities to the Director of Personnel and the heads of other staff offices.

The Agricultural Act of 1949 became effective January 1, 1950.

AGENCIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Program Agencies

The AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION, established by Executive Order 9069, of February 23, 1942, comprises the Office of the Administrator, the Office of Experiment Stations, and the Bureaus of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry; Animal Industry; Dairy Industry; Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Human Nutrition and Home Economics; and Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

The Administrator has a fivefold task: (1) Administers the research and regulatory activities of the Administration; (2) coordinates the Department's entire research program with the exception of economic research; (3) cooperates with Directors of State Agricultural Experiment Stations in developing an integrated agricultural research program for the Nation; (4) administers the program of research grants to the State Experiment Stations under various Federal Acts; (5) administers the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

The Administrator exercises his various functions by means of an organization having responsibilities as follows:

The Office of the Administrator determines research policy, and coordinates, integrates and approves the research program of the Department with the exception of economic research; administers work under the Research and Marketing Act, research on agricultural problems of Alaska, and research on strategic and critical agricultural materials; develops and promotes the administrative management program of ARA to meet the needs of research and control programs; and provides over-all operating services and related management to agencies utilizing the services of the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md.

The Office of Experiment Stations represents the Department in administering the acts of Congress under which funds are provided for conduct of agricultural research by State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The authorizing legislation includes the Hatch, Adams, and Purnell Acts; the Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico Acts; Title I of the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935; and Title I, section 9, of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 with funds made available in the annual Department Appropriation Act. The Office also takes part in the planning and coordination of regional research carried on cooperatively by the several experiment stations and the Department under Title I, Section 9(b) 3, Research and Marketing Act of 1946. The Federal Experiment Station at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, is under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the Office.

The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, which operates the four Regional Research Laboratories, and a number of other field stations, is concerned with the development of new and wider industrial uses for agricultural products and byproducts; research on food products, and on the composition, properties, and technology of other agricultural products and byproducts; experiments on the preparation and utilization of agricultural and associated raw materials for industrial purposes; development of improved processes and equipment for the production, handling, and utilization of rosin and turpentine; and investigations of allergenes and other biologically active constituents or derivatives of agricultural products.

The Bureau of Animal Industry conducts scientific investigations of the cause, prevention, and treatment, control, or eradication of diseases and parasites of domestic animals; breeding, feeding, and management of domestic animals, including poultry and domestic fur-bearing animals; and methods of improving the quality and usefulness of their products. It administers the Animal Quarantine Act, the Diseased Animal Transportation Acts, the Meat Inspection Act, the 28-Hour Law, and the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act.

The Bureau of Dairy Industry conducts scientific research on the breeding, nutritive requirements, and management of dairy cattle; the physiology of reproduction and milk secretion; manufacture of milk products and byproducts; and efficient operation of dairy manufacturing plants. The Bureau also collects and analyzes production records of dairy herds and utilizes the information in promoting herd improvements on a national scale.

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine conducts research to develop methods to control, eradicate, or prevent spread of injurious insects and to utilize insects which are beneficial. This includes studies on the chemistry and the use of insecticides and of devices or practices for their application. The Bureau conducts cooperative action programs to control or eradicate important insect pests and plant diseases, including those occurring as incipient or emergency outbreaks. It is also responsible for the enforcement of quarantines to prevent the introduction and spread of insect pests and plant diseases new to or not generally distributed in this country.

The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, through its research on goods and services for everyday living, furnishes American families with facts to help them use their resources so as to obtain the greatest possible return in social and physical well-being. Typical research projects deal with nutritional requirements of the human body; nutritive properties of food in respect to protein, vitamins, and other constituents; methods of home canning, freezing, drying, and otherwise preserving food; ways of cooking and serving to conserve food values; designing functional clothes for women and children; developing consumer specifications for standard-type fabrics for clothing and household use; performance requirements of household equipment; budget plans for food, clothing, and other essential goods and services based on data collected from families typical of different income and occupational groups in the population. Congress first authorized research in human nutrition in 1894. Investigations were carried forward in the Office of Experiment Stations until 1915, when an Office of Home Economics became part of the new States Relations Service. In turn, the Bureau of Home Economics was established in 1923, and became the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in 1943.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering does research on crop, soil, machinery, storage, transportation, and housing problems of general and specialized farming, forestry, and gardening. Among the problems studied are those of weather, disease, weeds, fertilization, mechanical operations of insect control, and other environmental factors affecting the growing and storing of farm products and the influence of environment on the health and production of farm animals, as well as housing of the farm family. Research with plants is concerned chiefly with reducing the hazards of production and improving the yield and quality of all crops. One important phase is the introduction and testing of promising seeds and plants from foreign countries for possible domestic use and for genetic improvement of crops now grown. The breeding of plants that will produce crops of high yield, good quality, and disease resistance involves fundamental research in the laws of inheritance looking toward sound procedures, and study of the pathology, ecology, physiology, morphology, and cytology of the plants themselves for an adequate understanding of disease control and of the relations between environment and cultivation, and yield and quality. The soil investigations center around relations between the soil and the crops it produces and seek to develop a better understanding of the various soils of the country and to find ways to increase their fertility and productivity. An important phase of the work is the soil survey, involving classification of the soils of the entire country by counties, now about half completed. The engineering work concerns the efficient use of power, labor, machines, and materials in farming. Studies are directed toward improving farm machinery and equipment for the many farm production operations, improving and developing methods of conditioning hay and grains, cotton ginning and packing, and processing of various other crops on the farm or in the nearby rural community. Research also is done on development of income-producing uses of electricity on the farm. Studies in farm structures aim to improve the design of farm storages and service buildings for efficient use, strength, and economy in materials and construction while those in animal housing involve the environmental factors that may affect the health and production of animals. Farm-housing research involves the design and planning of more livable farm homes. Bureau headquarters are maintained at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

The COMMODITY EXCHANGE AUTHORITY administers the Commodity Exchange Act. Its functions are designed to: Prevent price manipulation and corners; prevent dissemination of false and misleading crop and market information affecting prices; protect hedgers and other users of the commodity futures markets against cheating, fraud, and manipulative practices; insure the benefits of membership privileges on contract markets to cooperative associations of producers; insure trust-fund treatment of margin moneys and equities of hedgers and other traders and prevent the misuse of such funds by brokers; and provide information to the public regarding trading operations on contract markets. It supervises trading on eighteen commodity exchanges designated as contract markets under the act. Its field offices are located at New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Minneapolis, and Kansas City.

The EXTENSION SERVICE is the cooperative educational agency under which the Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges carry on educational programs on agriculture and homemaking among people in rural areas. It has primary responsibility for the educational work relative to Department programs and does so in full cooperation with all agencies in accordance with the nature of their own programs. In its regular programs, Extension keeps farmers and farm families informed about new practices and new methods of farm production, marketing, and homemaking. It encourages rural youth to become better citizens, farmers, and homemakers through membership in 4-H Clubs. It emphasizes health, nutrition, and sanitary standards as important considerations in efficient agricultural production. It sponsors programs that bring an appreciation of the values of rural life and of the responsibilities of farmers to other segments of citizenship in a democratic society. Extension work uses, to a considerable extent, local demonstrations and volunteer leaders as teaching aids. The Service is also responsible for fostering groups for the public study and discussion of broad agricultural problems and policies.

The FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, through organizations operating under its supervision, provides a complete cooperative credit service for farmers and their cooperative marketing, purchasing, and business service associations. Farmers through the 12 Federal land banks and about 1,000 local national farm loan associations have a cooperative source of long-term farm mortgage credit at reasonable rates on a sound appraisal basis. Through a system of some 500 local cooperative production credit associations, 12 Federal intermediate credit banks, and 12 production credit corporations, farmers obtain short-term operating credit. The 13 banks for cooperatives supply credit for farmers' business cooperatives. FCA endeavors to provide financing without risking inflation. It urges farmers to pay off existing indebtedness and to build reserves for the future. The Cooperative Research and Service Division assists farmers' cooperatives to solve their problems and improve efficiency.

The FARMERS' HOME ADMINISTRATION provides small farmers with credit to improve farming operations or to become owners, and supplements its loans with individual guidance in sound farm and home management when necessary. FHA services are available to farmers who cannot obtain the credit they need, at interest rates not exceeding 5 percent, from banks, cooperative lending agencies, or other responsible sources in their communities.

FHA began operations through a merger, on November 1, 1946, of functions formerly carried on by the Farm Security Administration and Farm Credit Administration's Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Division. FHA is authorized to make production and subsistence loans up to $3,500 for livestock, seed, feed, fertilizer, farm equipment, supplies, family subsistence, or other farm and home needs. They may be for periods up to 5 years when necessary to work out fundamental adjustments in farming operations. They are repayable at 5 percent interest. Farm ownership loans up to the reasonable value of the farm and necessary improvements, but no more than the average value of all economic units in the county include both direct credit supplied by Government, and Federal insurance of privately made loans. In either case, the loan may be to buy a family-type farm or to enlarge or improve a farm to make it an economic family-type unit. The loans are repayable over a maximum of 40 years, at 4 percent interest; borrowers repay on a variable-payment schedule allowing for greater payments in years of peak income. Veterans have preference for real-estate loans and disabled veterans may obtain loans for farms smaller than economic family-type units. Whenever an FHA borrower becomes eligible for private or cooperative refinancing of his indebtedness and can obtain such refinancing on prevailing terms and at interest not exceeding 5 percent, he must apply for and accept such credit.

FHA is in charge of the Department's program of loans for the installation or repair of water facilities on small farms in the 17 Western States. The agency has also been authorized by the Secretary to administer the Department's fur loan program and provide credit assistance to farmers who have suffered damage due to floods, storms, and other natural disasters. Credit provisions of Title V, Public Law 171 (81st Congress)--the farm housing program--are also administered by the Farmers Home Administration during the four-year period 1949-1952. Housing loans are made only to farm owners, for construction or repair of homes or buildings; they are repayable in 5 to 33 years, at 4 percent interest. Veterans and families of deceased servicemen have preference.

The FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION develops and administers crop insurance programs that provide producers an opportunity to protect their crop investments against losses due to causes beyond their control such as weather, insects and plant diseases. The purpose of the Crop Insurance Act, as amended, is to develop a program of crop investment protection that will cushion the impact of crop failures on the individual farmer, the local business area and the national economy. It is a business proposition under which participating farmers pay premiums for the protection at rates designed to cover losses paid to farmers over a period of years. Legislation authorized operation of crop insurance programs in 1949 in 200 wheat, 56 cotton, 50 flax, 50 corn, 50 multiple, 35 tobacco, and 20 dry edible bean counties. Amended legislation authorized expanding the program to 100 wheat, 28 cotton, 25 flax, 25 corn, 25 multiple, 17 tobacco, and 10 bean counties each year from 1950 through 1953. The multiple crop plan insures several crop investments under one policy. Before a crop insurance program can be put in effect in a county, at least 200 farms or one-third of the eligible farms normally producing the insured crop, whichever is smaller, must apply for the protection. The amount of protection offered cannot exceed the general cost of producing the crop in an area.

The FOREST SERVICE is responsible for promoting the conservation of forests and the wise use of the Nation's forest lands which comprise one-third of the total land area of the U. S. FS cooperates with the States and with private forest-land owners in extending forest-fire protection, in producing and distributing trees for farm planting, and in promoting sound forest management through technical advice and assistance to forest owners. It administers the National Forests, aggregating nearly 180 million acres in 40 States and 2 Territories, for the development, maintenance, and best use of the timber, water, forage, wild life, and recreational resources in the public interest. It carries on research looking to increased knowledge and improved practices in forest, range, and watershed management and protection and in the utilization of forest products. FS maintains 10 regional offices, 12 forest and range experiment stations with numerous branch stations, a tropical forestry unit in Puerto Rico, and a Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis.

The PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION, established by the Secretary of Agriculture in August 1945, consolidated into a single unit the work carried on by 12 former offices, agencies, and establishments of the Department. Its function is to administer the Department's production and marketing programs, including agricultural conservation, production goals, acreage allotments, marketing quotas, price support, storage facilities, sugar, supply, marketing research, standardization, grading, inspection, market news, marketing agreement and order, school lunch, research, surplus disposal, and other programs.

The Washington organization of the Production and Marketing Administration consists of an Administrator, a Deputy Administrator, an Assistant Administrator in charge of Production, an Assistant Administrator in charge of Marketing, an Assistant Administrator in charge of Management, an Assistant Administrator for Commodity Operations, 9 commodity branches which plan and administer or supervise the administration of all PMA's programs affecting their commodities, and other branches and offices, which are responsible for specific programs or administrative functions affecting all commodities.

The commodity branches are as follows: Cotton, Dairy, Fats and Oils, Fruit and Vegetable, Grain, Livestock, Poultry, Sugar, and Tobacco. The other branches and offices are: Administrative Services, Agricultural Conservation Programs, Audit, Budget, Compliance and Investigation, Fiscal, Food Distribution Programs, Information, Marketing and Facilities Research, Personnel Services, Price Support and Foreign Supply, and Transportation and Warehousing. The field organization of PMA consists of State PMA offices, and insular offices in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, County PMA and community committees, PMA Commodity Offices, and branch field and area offices.

The COMMODITY CREDIT CREDIT CORPORATION, incorporated in 1933 under laws of the State of Delaware, and reincorporated in 1948, under the laws of the U. S. has been a part of USDA since 1939. Management of CCC is vested in a Board of Directors which is subject to the general supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who is Chairman of the Board and an ex officio member. The Corporation, in carrying out price-support, foreign-supply, and other programs, makes use of Production and Marketing Administration personnel and facilities.

The RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION is a lending agency. It finances the construction of electric-power facilities in the unserved rural areas of the country, and, since October 28, 1949, the extension and improvement of rural telephone service. Its loans bear 2 percent interest and are amortized over a maximum period of 35 years. Cooperatives are the principal borrowers of REA electrification loan funds, but loans have also been approved for public power districts, other public bodies, and commercial power companies. When REA was established in 1935, about 11 percent of the Nation's farms had central station electric service; by 1950 this had increased to over 80 percent of all farms. More than half of these new farm consumers were connected by REA borrowers and the other half by commercial power distributors who were spurred to greater activity by the REA program. On January 1, 1950, the REA borrowers were serving approximately 3,000,000 farms and other rural establishments including many schools, churches, stores, and small industries. The REA program is making a major contribution to the improvement of farm and rural community standards of living. REA rural telephone loans are authorized under an amendment to the Rural Electrification Act approved October 28, 1949. Loans may be made to both commercial and cooperative telephone organizations for the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of telephone lines, facilities, and systems. The law requires that the program be so conducted as to make telephone service available to the widest practicable number of rural users. In the first 5 months after the new legislation became effective, REA received more than 2,000 inquiries about rural telephone loans and some 400 formally executed loan applications. Funds for the first telephone loan were allocated on February 24, 1950. Latest estimates indicate only about 40 percent of the farms in the U. S. have telephones, with at least half of these having unsatisfactory service.

The SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE is responsible for the development and prosecution of a national program to bring about physical adjustments in land use that will further human welfare, conserve natural resources, establish a permanent and balanced agriculture, and reduce the hazards of floods and siltation. This is being accomplished by the development of a well-rounded, coordinated program of soil and water conservation. Primarily, the Service furnishes technical assistance to farmers and ranchers in soil conservation districts. Such districts are local units of government, organized and managed under State law by landowners and operators. Limited amounts of equipment and planting materials not readily available from other sources are also provided. When an operator seeks help of an SCS technician through his local district, a complete farm conservation plan is developed jointly by the farmer and technician. The soil and water conserving practices and land use measures included are determined by acre-by-acre surveys to determine the land's capabilities and its needs according to topography, soil types, degree of erosion, vegetation, rainfall, and other factors affecting conservation use of the land. SCS also carries on certain conservation irrigation and drainage and flood control activities. In cooperation with State agricultural experiment stations, Federal research agencies, interested organizations, and soil conservation district farmers and ranchers, SCS conducts a practical research program to develop, refine, and improve soil and water conservation practices in support of its field operations.

Staff and Service Agencies

The BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS is the central statistical and economic research agency of the Department. It gathers, evaluates, and reports on data covering a broad range of topics--agricultural production, prices and income (including parity relationships for prices and incomes), demand and supply, consumption, labor, farm management and costs, marketing margins and costs, finance, land and water utilization, land values and ownership, transportation, rural electrification, and other matters related to agriculture. It carries on studies of rural population problems and levels of living, and of consumer preferences in regard to foods and fabrics. Reports on progress of crops, agricultural prices, and other aspects of agricultural production and marketing are released periodically. The Bureau prepares an annual outlook analysis, which is supplemented during the year by a series of situation reports summarizing current commodity information. Broader studies of the business of farming include topics such as production adjustment, long-range outlook, and technological change.

The OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE is a staff agency of the Department supervised by the Director of Finance who is also the Budget Officer. It has responsibility for providing leadership, coordination, and supervision of the budgetary, procurement, and fiscal affairs of the Department, including the acquisition and distribution of funds; accounting; auditing; budgetary and financial reporting; budget, fiscal, and procurement organization and management; purchasing, warehousing, utilizing, and disposing of administrative and operating supplies, equipment, and materials; and related activities. The Office formulates and promulgates departmental policies and procedures relating to the above functions. It reviews and evaluates program and legislative proposals for budgetary, financial, and related implications. In cooperation with staff and program agencies, it provides leadership in the development of improvements in the management and operation of program and administrative activities of the Department, and, through the normal budgetary process and by other means, analyzes and evaluates the efficiency of program operations. The Office acts as Department liaison on the foregoing matters with other Government agencies, including the congressional Committees on Appropriations. It coordinates in the field the activities of Area Agricultural Equipment Committees to assure maximum effective utilization of administrative and operating supplies and equipment owned and procured by the Department. These functions are exercised by means of an organization comprising the office of the director and eight divisions: Estimates and Allotments; Accounting; Audit; Corporate Fiscal Service; Fiscal Management; Legislative Reports; Purchase, Sales and Traffic; and Procurement and Supply Management.

The OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS primarily acquires and disseminates information on the foreign demand for and competition with American agricultural products, and coordinates the technical assistance in agriculture that is extended by USDA to foreign governments. The Office obtains through the agricultural and other economic reporting officers of the Foreign Service, and also other sources, information from abroad on crop production and prospects, livestock numbers, stocks, and trade in agricultural commodities. It also obtains information on the food and agricultural situations in foreign countries and the economic policies and programs of foreign governments affecting the interests of American agriculture. This information is compiled, analyzed, interpreted, and issued in the U.S. to producers, business interests, officials of the Legislative and Executive Branches, and research and educational workers. The Office sends specialists abroad to further the marketing of U.S. agricultural commodities. It advises the Secretary of Agriculture on export subsidies, import quotas, international trade agreements, and other foreign trade measures affecting the agriculture of the U.S., and represents the USDA in negotiations concerning these matters. In the general program of technical agricultural collaboration between the Government of the U.S. and the governments of cooperating countries, the office coordinates the relations of the USDA and also supervises certain agricultural improvement projects being carried out cooperatively abroad.

The OFFICE OF HEARING EXAMINERS was established to meet the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (60 Stat. 241). Examiners from that office hold hearings in rule-making and quasijudicial proceedings required by that act to be conducted by hearing examiners and perform such related functions as are prescribed by various statutes and regulations.

The OFFICE OF INFORMATION was established in somewhat its present form, under a Director, on May 1, 1925. It is responsible for the direction, integration, and coordination of all USDA information activities. It disseminates information arising from action, research, regulatory, and service programs via publications, press, radio, motion pictures, and exhibits.

The LIBRARY serves both as a staff agency of the Department and as the National Library of Agriculture. It derives its functions from the Organic Act of 1862 in which, among other things, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to "procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books . . ." The Library serves the staff of the Department of Agriculture in Washington and in the field. As the National Library of Agriculture, it is responsible for the collection and dissemination of the knowledge contained in literature to all those interested in agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense. It provides these services through the acquisition, cataloging and circulation of books, pamphlets and periodicals, through the answering of reference questions and through the compilation of bibliographies in the field of agriculture, including the monthly Bibliography of Agriculture.

The OFFICE OF PERSONNEL was established April 7, 1925, as the Office of Personnel and Business Administration. On June 1, 1934, this Office was divided into three parts, one of which was given the title, Office of Personnel. It serves as a staff agency of the Secretary, having responsibility for the personnel management program of the Department. This involves the developing of personnel policy for the Department and the interpreting and executing of the intents and policies expressed in over 200 laws, various executive orders, and the rules, regulations, policies, and decisions of the several agencies of the Government in the field of personnel management. In order to accomplish its objective, the Office emphasizes the greatest possible delegations of appointment, classification, disciplinary and other authority, and operates on the basis that personnel management responsibilities are a substantial part of the managerial functions that affect every executive from the chief administrative officials to the supervisors of the smallest units. Policy and basic procedures developed by the Office of Personnel are carried out through agency personnel offices. The responsibilities of this Office are carried on by seven divisions: Classification, Employment, Organization and Personnel Management, Personnel Relations and Safety, Employee Health, Training and Investigations.

The OFFICE OF PLANT AND OPERATIONS is responsible for the housing of departmental activities; administers communications management and records administration programs; provides technical and engineering advisory services pertaining to the acquisition, utilization, and maintenance of equipment; exercises general coordination of technical operations in connection with departmental planimetric, topographic, cadastral and mosaic mapping and aerial photographic projects. The Office also provides central departmental services in Washington, D. C., including telephone and telegraph, post office, storage and issue of supplies and forms, motor transport and service garage, photographic, duplicating, addressing and mailing services, and administrative service functions for the Office of the Secretary.

The OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR performs all legal work for the Department. Under the act of May 26, 1910, the Solicitor is the chief law officer of the Department. The Solicitor issues both formal and informal opinions on legal questions arising in the administration of the Department's programs, participates in litigation affecting the Department, and provides a variety of other legal services such as the preparation and review of administrative rules and regulations, the preparation and interpretation of contracts, mortgages, leases, deeds, and similar documents, preparation of patent applications, and examination of titles to lands.

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

APPROVED: Charles F. Brannan
Secretary of Agriculture

DATE: January 4, 1950

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

Responsible for the personnel management program of the Department (employment, classification, organization, training, investigations, health, personnel relations and safety) and integrating it with the Department's research, technical, regulatory, and other programs.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Directs, coordinates and supervises the budgetary and financial affairs of the Department.

OFFICE OF PLANT AND OPERATIONS

Responsible for Departmental housing, records administration, equipment and engineering services; provides central communications, duplicating and related services.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Coordinates and supervises the agricultural information activities of the various agencies of the Department.

LIBRARY

Provides library services to all agencies of the Department and maintains an extensive collection of agricultural information.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Serves as the primary agency in the Department for economic research and for the collection and dissemination of agricultural statistics; coordinates economic research and statistical work conducted elsewhere in the Department.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

Provides comprehensive information on the World's agriculture and foreign trade; coordinates activities of the Department concerned with exports and imports; conducts programs of technical collaboration on agriculture with foreign countries.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Performs the legal work for the Department.

OFFICE OF HEARING EXAMINERS

Conducts rule making and quasi-judicial proceedings in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

Administers scientific research activities of the Department (including the Research and Marketing Act of 1946) directed to the improvement of quality and economy of producing and marketing farm commodities, development of new and extended uses for such commodities, and the protection and improvement of agricultural resources; coordinates all research activities (other than economic research, coordinated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics) of the agencies of the Department; administers assigned regulatory and control programs and manages the Agricultural Research Center.

Bureaus

Agricultural & Industrial Chem.
Animal Industry
Dairy Industry
Entomology & Plant Quarantine
Human Nutrition & Home Economics
Plant Industry, Soils, & Agricultural Engineering

OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS

EXTENSION SERVICE

Carries on educational programs designed to assist people, primarily in rural areas, increase their technical knowledge so that they may develop more efficient farms, better homes, higher incomes and standards of living, desirable family and community life, and an understanding of those problems which can be met only through group action; coordinates the agriculture and home economics cooperative extension work of the Department and State colleges, including county agent, home demonstration, and 4-H club work.

FOREST SERVICE

Through research, cooperative, regulatory, and management functions, promotes full production of forest land and wise use of forest resources (timber, forage, water, wildlife); administers the national forests, forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory; cooperates with states in fire protection, tree distribution, forest management, and other forest activities; plans and administers programs to facilitate the utilization of essential forest products.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Administers a national program of soil and water conservation to aid in bringing about physical adjustments in land use that will better human welfare, conserve natural resources and establish a stable and balanced agriculture. The program includes drainage, irrigation, water utilization, land purchase and sale, land development, and flood control. Coordinates these activities with those of cooperating agencies, including soil conservation districts, and conducts necessary related research.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

Makes loans for the purpose of financing the construction and operation of generating plants, electric transmission and distribution systems for the furnishing of electric energy to unserved persons in rural areas; makes loans for the purpose of financing the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of telephone lines and systems to furnish and improve telephone service in rural areas; assists borrowers in the construction and effective operation of such facilities; makes loans for the wiring of consumers' premises and the installation of electrical and plumbing appliances; makes studies and disseminates information concerning the condition and progress of the electrification of and the furnishing of adequate telephone service in rural areas.

COMMODITY EXCHANGE AUTHORITY

Administers and is responsible for the enforcement of the Commodity Exchange Act, the orders of the Commodity Exchange Commission, and the orders and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture under the Act; examines commodity trade practices; investigates complaints and apparent violations of the Act; supervises futures trading and conducts audits of books and records of futures commission merchants, floor brokers, and traders to assure compliance with requirements; and, designates contract markets, reviews exchange rules, and registers futures commission merchants and floor brokers.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Provides a coordinated credit system for agriculture by making long-term and short-term sources of credit available to farmers; provides credit facilities, research and service for cooperative marketing, purchasing, and business service organizations. The lending institutions under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration extend credit to individual farmers and to farmers' cooperative associations.

Production Credit Corporations
Federal Land Banks
Intermediate Credit Banks
Banks for Cooperatives
Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Administers programs for the extension of supervised credit through the making and servicing of farm ownership (direct and insured mortgage loans), farm housing, production and subsistence, disaster, fur, and water facilities loans to low income farmers and others who are unable to obtain satisfactory credit from other sources. In connection with these activities, promotes better planning, better farming, and the ownership of family type farms.

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Administers the Department's production and marketing programs, including agricultural conservation; acreage allotments; marketing quotas; price support through loans, purchases, and other means; sugar programs; requirements and supplies; foreign and other supply; import control; marketing research, service and regulatory activities, including standardization, grading, inspection, and market news; marketing agreements and orders; school lunch; development of new and expanded markets and uses; encouragement of exports, surplus disposal, and other programs. Carries out Commodity Credit Corporation programs.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Responsible for activities directed to stabilizing, supporting and protecting farm income and prices; assisting in the maintenance of balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities; and facilitating the orderly distribution of agricultural commodities. These activities include price support through loans, purchases payments, and other operations; making available required materials and facilities; surplus disposal; procurement for foreign and domestic requirements; developing new and expanded markets, uses and marketing facilities; facilitating or making exports and developing foreign markets; and other operations which may be authorized by Congress. Program operations are carried out through the facilities and personnel of the Production and Marketing Administration.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION

Conducts an insurance program to improve the economic stability of agriculture through a sound system of crop insurance on specified commodities. Provides protection to premium paying farmers against loss of investment by paying indemnities for crop losses from unavoidable causes including such natural hazards as wind, hail, deficient or excessive moisture, insect infestation, and others. Conducts research, surveys, and investigations for devising and establishing sound actuarial bases for insurance and for providing insurance for new commodities.

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